15: U.S. Navy --26 [9] (no date) 1944 Formosans
116, 732, 759, 548, 874, 177.73 Japanese
636.73

"Schools for the blind, the deaf, and the dumb are maintained at Government expense at Taihoku and Tainan. In addition to instruction in Braille, pupils are taught various skills, of which the most important are weaving, chiefly of panama hats, and massage. Graduates of the school who have passed the required masseur's examination are licensed to practice, and are assigned districts or routes over which they go every evening from nightfall until midnight, with a whistle or pipe and a tune peculiar to each masseur. They travel, both men and women, in pairs or with a small child or elder person as a guide. Many are not wholly blind, but qualify to practice. Sometimes they work at home or in shops at various tasks during the day, making the evening work as a masseur a supplementary livelihood. Many Chinese hotels or lodging houses have masseurs regularly employed. A certain amount of illegal solicitation for prostitution is carried on by them as well as by the masseurs who travel a regular beat through the city streets."

15: U.S. Navy --26 [10]
116, 732, 743, 735, 177.73
636.73

(no date) 1944

Formosans
Japanese

"There is a Government hospital for the insane at Taihoku. The general impression is gained, however, that the mentally deficient and the hopelessly crippled are not usually placed in institutions but are simply cared for in a haphazard fashion by their families. Occasionally such persons are found living or begging along the roads leading to popular temples and shrines."

1:Gallin E-4,5 (1957-1958) 1966
AD5 Taiwan Hokkien AD5
Formosa AD1

greater labor force, and this absorbed the men who had formerly worked in Lukang.

The expanded area of land under cultivation increased the food supply and generally improved the standard of living. In addition, the Japanese introduced some Western public health ideas and new means for controlling disease. Apparently, these factors are closely related to the extensive population growth which then began to take place in Taiwan. The Japanese also improved the primitive communication systems of the area. A major program of electrification and improvement of rail and bus lines was instituted throughout the heavily populated areas of the island.

The material influence of the Japanese occupation and administration of Taiwan was enormous. Not only did Japan create in Taiwan an important element of its colonial empire but in so doing it indirectly began to produce important economic changes which had implications for the development of the rural areas and the island itself. While agriculture provided the major portion of Taiwan's exports to the home country, new, imported commodities also became readily available to the Taiwanese villager at low prices; many inexpensive canned foods became common in the village household. In spite of these changes, the world depression had apparently little effect in the Hsin Hsing area. In fact, few villagers were even aware that there was a world depression in 1929 and in the 1930's, which may be due to the almost total lack of industry in rural Taiwan or in Taiwan generally at that time.

The advent of the Japanese brought a higher standard of living for the Taiwanese people, but the improvements were offset by the war with China in 1937 and, more notably, by the entrance of the United States into the war in 1941. Japan had to muster all its own resources and those of its colonies, and good times soon turned into hard times for the Taiwanese farmer. At first, village men were lured off the land to work at high pay on Japanese construction projects, and others were conscripted to work in Japanese army labor gangs in both Taiwan and in Southeast Asia. Often families were left with only the women, children, and old men to work the land. The supply of artificial fertilizer which had been so important in developing intensive rice cultivation was almost completely cut off. The little food that could be produced under these difficult conditions was usually confiscated by the Japanese authorities to supplement the food supplies in Japan, and villagers were frequently reduced to a diet consisting mostly of sweet potatoes. The gratitude they had felt for the prewar accomplishments of the Japanese was offset by the severity of Japanese rule during the hard war years.

The defeat of the Japanese and the coming of the Chinese National-